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3 DECEMBER 1982

**NEW NAVAL BASE AND UPGRADING OF
DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES AT DUNCAN ISLAND
PARACEL ISLANDS**

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1. (SWN) SIGNIFICANCE: THE COMPLETION OF THE NAVAL BASE AND THE INCREASED DEFENSES ON DUNCAN ISLAND WILL ENHANCE CHINA'S NAVAL CAPABILITIES IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA.
2. (SWN) REMARKS: A NEW NAVAL BASE AND PORT FACILITY HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED ON THE ISLAND. THE NAVAL BASE CONSISTS OF A QUAY, A DREDGED HARBOR AND CHANNEL, FOUR TO FIVE SUPPORT BUILDINGS, AND A POSSIBLE NAVIGATIONAL AID. CONSTRUCTION ON THE HARBOR STARTED SOMETIME DURING 1978 AND CONTINUED UNTIL MID 1982. A HAINAN SUBMARINE CHASER (PCS) AND A MECHANIZED LANDING CRAFT (LCM) WERE PRESENT [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] THE NEW BASE WILL ALLOW CHINA TO SUPPORT ADDITIONAL NAVAL CRAFT THAT WOULD DEPLOY TO THE AREA IN TIMES OF CRISIS.

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(SWN) AN OVERALL INCREASE IN DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES WAS OBSERVED AT DUNCAN ISLAND ON IMAGERY [REDACTED]
ADDITIONS TO THE ISLAND'S DEFENSES INCLUDE ONE SIX-POSITION AND ONE EIGHT-POSITION AAA SITE AND A PROBABLE HELICOPTER PAD. SUPPORT FACILITIES INCLUDE ONE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, NINE PROBABLE BARRACKS, AND TWO BASKETBALL COURTS. DUNCAN ISLAND IS ONE OF EIGHT ISLANDS OCCUPIED BY THE CHINESE IN THE PARACEL GROUP. [REDACTED]

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3. (S) [REDACTED] COORDINATES 16-27-11N 111-43-01E
[REDACTED] COORDINATES 16-27-10N 111-43-00E

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WARNING NOTICE
Intelligence Sources
and Methods Involved

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